SEP 2 9 2006 LIMITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In remarkable Application of: Shigetoshi WAKAYAMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2814

Application Number: 10/777,189

Examiner: Hoai V. Pham

Filed: February 13, 2004

Confirmation Number: 8258

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE HAVING A GUARD RING

Attorney Docket Number:

042107

Customer Number:

38834

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114 EXPEDITED PROCESSING REQUESTED

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 29, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 16, 2006, the response date of which having been extended by two months to October 16, 2006, Applicants amend the claims as follows and submit the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.